

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A purchase order tracking method for use by a manufacturer to allow a
2 customer issuing an electronic purchase order to the manufacturer to track the progress of
3 purchase order manipulation by the manufacturer;

4 the method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) receiving the electronic purchase order;

6 (b) establishing a purchase order manipulation progress report for the received
7 electronic purchase order;

8 (c) recording related data into the purchase order manipulation progress report at
9 the completion of each stage of the progress of purchase order manipulation by the
10 manufacturer; and

11 (d) downloading the purchase order manipulation progress report into a network-
12 linked database linked to a network server linked to a network system, so as to allow the
13 customer to gain access to the purchase order manipulation progress report by linking via
14 the network system to the network server and view the contents of the purchase order
15 manipulation progress report through a browser program.

1 2. The purchase order tracking method of claim 1, wherein in said step (a),
2 an EDI platform is used to receive the electronic purchase order.

1 3. The purchase order tracking method of claim 1, wherein in said step (d),
2 the network system is Internet.

1 4. The purchase order tracking method of claim 3, wherein in said step (d),
2 the network server is a Web server.

1 5. The purchase order tracking method of claim 3, wherein in said step (d),
2 the browser program is Microsoft Internet Explorer.

1 6. The purchase order tracking method of claim 3, wherein in said step (d),
2 the browser program is Netscape Navigator.

1 7. A purchase order tracking method for use by a manufacturer to allow a
2 customer issuing an electronic purchase order to the manufacturer to track the progress of
3 purchase order manipulation by the manufacturer;

4 the method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) receiving the electronic purchase order via an EDI platform;

6 (b) establishing a purchase order manipulation progress report for the received
7 electronic purchase order;

8 (c) recording related data into the purchase order manipulation progress report at
9 the completion of each stage of the progress of purchase order manipulation by the
10 manufacturer; and

11 (d) downloading the purchase order manipulation progress report into a Web-
12 linked database linked to a Web server linked to Internet, so as to allow the customer to
13 gain access to the purchase order manipulation progress report by linking via the Internet

14 to the Web server and view the contents of the purchase order manipulation progress
15 report through a Web browser program.

1 8. The purchase order tracking method of claim 7, wherein in said step (d),
2 the browser program is Microsoft Internet Explorer.

1 9. The purchase order tracking method of claim 7, wherein in said step (d),
2 the browser program is Netscape Navigator.

10. A purchase order tracking system for use by a manufacturer to allow a
customer issuing an electronic purchase order to the manufacturer to track the progress of
purchase order manipulation by the manufacturer;

the system comprising:

an EDI platform for receiving the electronic purchase order from the customer;

a progress reporting platform, which is used to establish a purchase order
manipulation progress report for the received electronic purchase order, and which is
further used to record related data into the purchase order manipulation progress report at
the completion of each stage of the progress of purchase order manipulation;

a Web-linked database, which is used to store the purchase order manipulation
progress report downloaded from the progress reporting platform; and

a Web server, which is externally linked to Internet and internally linked to the
Web-linked database so as to allow the customer to gain access to the purchase order
manipulation progress report by linking via Internet to the Web server and view the

15 contents of the purchase order manipulation progress report through a Web browser
16 program.

1 11. The purchase order tracking system of claim 10, wherein the Web browser
2 program is Microsoft Internet Explorer.

12. The purchase order tracking system of claim 10, wherein the Web browser
program is Netscape Navigator.